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**Statement for the Record on S. 3860, a bill to require reports on the management
of Arlington National Cemetery**

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2010

Madame Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3860, important legislation to ensure proper oversight of Arlington National cemetery. I'm proud to have sponsored companion legislation to this bill in the House to see that we fulfill our oversight duties and properly honor our fallen heroes.

Arlington National Cemetery is the final resting place for Presidents, Senators, Representatives, Supreme Court Justices, Generals, Admirals and the countless soldiers, known and unknown, who've died in defense of freedom. It is home to memorials for Iowa heroes like the five Sullivan brothers who were lost at Sea in 1942 with the sinking of the U.S.S. Juneau, but who are honored with tombstones among all of their fallen brothers. Arlington National Cemetery is a national institution that symbolizes the service and sacrifice by our citizens that makes the United States great, but most recently, it's been a sign of government incompetence.

The recent scandal of unmarked and inappropriately marked gravesites reflects poorly on the Americans memorialized there, but it is also a stain on America. To date, Arlington Cemetery has spent over \$5 million to computerize records to determine who is buried where, with nothing to show for it but continued problems in gravesite identification. The misuse of these funds disrespects our honored dead and is a breach in the trust of the American people.

As the son of a World War II veteran, I have the deepest respect for our nation's veterans and I want nothing but the best treatment for them in life and in death. We owe them more than they've been given. I had the honor of attending the burial service of Specialist Ross McGinnis of Knox, PA at Arlington Cemetery as one of my first acts in Congress. Specialist McGinnis was killed in action near Adhamiyah, Iraq on December 4, 2006 when he threw himself on top of a grenade thrown in to his HMMWV, saving the lives of at least four other soldiers, including one of my constituents. For his actions that day, Spc. McGinnis was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

My bill, and the bill we passed, asks for nothing more than the respect that our distinguished veterans like Spc. McGinnis deserve. I commend my colleagues for their support on this matter.